

## OPINION 895

## STRIX CAPENSIS DAUDIN, 1800 (AVES): SUPPRESSED UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

**RULING.**—(1) Under the plenary powers the specific name *capensis* Daudin, 1800, as published in the combination *Strix bubo capensis*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The specific name *capensis* Daudin, 1800, as published in the combination *Strix bubo capensis* (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 911.

(3) The specific name *capensis* Smith, 1834, as published in the binomen *Strix capensis*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2341.

## HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1692)

The present case was first brought to the attention of the Commission in January 1965 by Dr. P. A. Clancey. An amended application was sent to the printer on 8 November 1966 and was published on 6 March 1967 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **24** : 34–35. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **21** : 184).

Dr. Clancey's proposals were supported by Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **24** : 203–4) and Prof. J. M. Winterbottom. An objection by Dr. G. F. Mees (*ibid.* **24** : 263–266) was answered by Clancey and Winterbottom (*ibid.* **25** : 3).

## DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 9 January 1969 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (69)5 either for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **24** : 35. At the close of the prescribed voting period on 9 April 1969 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—twenty-one (21), received in the following order: China, Holthuis, Lemche, Mayr, Eisenmann, Obruchev, Vokes, Forest, Melville, Evans, Simpson, Jaczewski, Uchida, Bonnet, Binder, Mertens, Kraus, Alvarado, Sabrosky, Starobogatov, Tortonese.

Negative votes—one (1): do Amaral.

Voting Papers not returned—two (2): Munroe, Ride.

Prof. Brinck returned a late affirmative vote.

The following further note from Dr. Mees arrived during the voting period:

“Clancey & Winterbottom (1968, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **25** : 3) have challenged the identification of *Strix bubo capensis* Daudin with *Bubo capensis* Smith as published in 1967 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **24** : 263–266, pl. 3). They expressed strongly the opinion that the bird from Olifants Rivier chosen as lectotype of Daudin's name, actually belongs to *Bubo africanus* (Temminck), and made this

an argument for suppression of the name *Strix bubo capensis* Daudin, as a number of undesirable changes in nomenclature would result from their identification.

"I am partly to blame for the fact that doubt could arise, as on pl. 3 of the *Bulletin* no mention is made of its degree of reduction from the original. Actually the reproduction is at slightly less than half the size of the original, about 0.45 X. This should make it evident that the foot shown on the plate is much too large to belong to *Bubo africanus*. For what it is worth, I further mention that in the coloured original the bird has yellow-orange eyes: according to Clancey (1964, *Birds of Natal and Zululand*: 232), *Bubo capensis* has orange-yellow irides, and *Bubo africanus* has lemon-yellow irides.

"A second argument put forward by Clancey & Winterbottom is that the Olifants Rivier is no suitable habitat for *Bubo capensis*. Being unfamiliar with that part of Africa, I cannot fully judge the weight of that argument, but according to maps, the main road crosses the Olifants Rivier only some ninety miles from Kaapstad, the accepted type-locality of *Bubo capensis* Smith. Considering that Levaillant's expedition took place some 180 years ago, and that great changes have doubtless taken place since, I do not find it difficult to believe that at that time *Bubo capensis* did range a mere ninety miles farther north than at present. However this may be, *Strix bubo capensis* Daudin is definitely the same as *Strix capensis* Smith, and the fears of nomenclatural confusion expressed by Clancey & Winterbottom are fortunately unfounded.

"Finally, I want to point out that Clancey & Winterbottom mistakenly stated that I made Levaillant's pl. 40 the lectotype of *Strix bubo capensis* Daudin, as I did no such thing; on the contrary I believe I made it quite clear that in my opinion pl. 40 represents a European bird and that the bird figured in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 24, pl. 3, is the lectotype."

#### ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on the Official List and Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

*capensis*, *Strix bubo*, Daudin, 1800, *Traité d'Ornith.* 2 : 209

*capensis*, *Strix*, Smith, 1834, *South African Quarterly J.* (2)2(1) : 317.

#### CERTIFICATE

We certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (69)5 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 895.

R. V. MELVILLE

Secretary

W. E. CHINA

Assistant Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

8 May 1969